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EXECUTIVE OFFICE OF THE PRESIDENT OFFICE OF SCIENCE AND TECHNOLOGY POLICY

washington, b.c. 20500 October 25, 1982

Dear Mr. Casey:

The Office of Science and Technology Policy is initiating a study to assess the commercial and national security implications of the transfer abroad of advanced biotechnologies.

The study will be conducted over the next six months, under the auspices of my Office, by an interagency working group of representatives of the Departments of State, Defense, Commerce, Agriculture, and Health and Human Services, the Central Intelligence Agency, the National Science Foundation, and the National Aeronautics and Space Administration. That working group will be chaired by Dr. Denis J. Prager, my Assistant Director responsible for issues in the life sciences. Mr. William J. Walsh, III of the State Department will serve as Vice-Chairman and Executive Secretary of the working group. Because of the classified nature of much of the information to be discussed, most meetings of the working group will have to be conducted at the "Secret" security level.

The purpose of this letter is to inform you of the initiation of this study and to ask that the CIA be represented on the Working Group by and of the Office of Science and Weapons Research. All of these scientists have done excellent work on important aspects of the problems which are the subject of the Working Group's assessment. I consider them indispensable to the successful completion of the study. Participation in this assessment may well involve a substantial expenditure of time and effort on the part of the CIA staff. However, because of the importance of the study and of active CIA participation, I hope that you will agree to their involvement.

We plan to convene the first meeting of the OSTP Interagency Working Group on Biotechnology on November 1, 1982 from 2:00-4:00 PM in Conference Room 5104 of the New Executive Office Building.

I hope you will feel free to attend any of the meetings of the working group in which you have interest.

G. A. Keyworth Director

Mr. William J. Casey, Director, Central Intelligence Agency, Washington, D. C.

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